

# Washington State **EMERGENCY NEWS**/Mitigation & Preparedness

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Washington  
Military  
Department  
**Emergency  
Management  
Division**

Camp Murray,  
Washington

[www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov)

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## **April is Washington's Preparedness Month; Drop, Cover, Hold drill set for April 6**

Camp Murray, Wash. – Washington State will observe Disaster Preparedness Month in April. Preparedness month encourages government agencies, businesses, schools and citizens to review emergency response plans and to participate in the statewide earthquake drill April 6.

**The statewide earthquake drill will occur April 6 between 9:45 a.m. and 10 a.m.** A statewide Emergency Alert System (EAS) message over radio and television stations will start the drill. The alert message will instruct Washington residents to “drop, cover, and hold” for personal earthquake protection in their residences, schools and workplaces.

As part of the Preparedness Month observance, emergency preparedness information packets are available from local emergency management agencies. Among the packet materials are posters about Washington's earthquake and tsunami hazards, a roadmap to disaster preparedness for travelers, a guide to weather safety, and information about the proper use of the Enhanced 9-1-1 system. The packet contains information addressed to both children and adults.

The packet materials also include a Disaster Preparedness Handbook that was prepared by the Washington Emergency Management Division (EMD) in partnership with the state Department of Health. The handbook outlines steps to prepare for a variety of hazards, including terrorism, biological agents and natural hazards such as storms and floods.

For further assistance with disaster planning and Preparedness Month materials, contact Washington Emergency Management Division at 253-512-7000 or 1-800-562-6108. A listing of those offices can be found on EMD's website at [www.emd.wa.gov](http://www.emd.wa.gov). Preparedness Month Campaign materials also are available to download from the EMD website.

LuAn Johnson, EMD public education manager, at (253) 512-7047, or Penelope Cassidy, at (253) 512-7016, E911 program public information officer, also can provide additional information and background on Washington Preparedness Month.

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